

Kindergarten Lesson Plan – What Makes a Magnet?

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Objectives:

Science K.3a– The student will investigate and understand that magnets have an effect on some materials, make some things move without touching them, and have useful applications.

Language Arts K.5, K.6, K.8

Essential Understandings:

What are the effects of magnets on objects?

Materials

Object picture cards (labeled)

Magnet Wands (one for each student)

Selected Texts:

Mickey's Magnet

Read Aloud: *Mickey's Magnet* or other fiction text to introduce topic. Discuss with students properties of magnets.

Starter/Engagement: Using magnet wands and selected items (paper clips, pennies, rubber bands, cotton balls, feathers, pieces of cork, stones or rocks, nails, crayons, modeling clay, Styrofoam, etc) have students predict which objects will be picked up (attraction) and which will not (non-attraction) and which will repel.

Students can make predictions by filling out a t-chart with picture cards backed with Velcro or magnets. Picture cards should be labeled.

Working in either whole group or small groups, students will work together to complete prediction by placing picture cards on large t-chart (labeled with magnet or magnet with a cross through it to designate attraction/non-attraction). If working in whole class, each child may be given a picture card to place on classroom chart.

Other Related Activities/Assessment/Evaluation:

These activities may be adapted by the teacher to use for individual evaluation and assessment of understanding, in addition to teacher observation.

K.8 Using non-fiction text, read aloud to students. Have students hold up their magnet wands to indicate whether objects mentioned in stories will be attracted to magnets.

K.5 Folder game – have students working in pairs complete t-chart using picture cards of objects. Extend this by having students identify initial letter sounds of objects or beginning letters of words.

K.6 Interactive writing – have students fill in simple text using picture cards of objects. Ex: Magnets attract paper clips. Activity may be done individually or as a class.

K.5 Word Study – Magnetic letters (emphasizing magnetic property) – spell words, spell content words, spell sight words, color words, any words.

K.5 Word Fishing – using magnets on the ends of fishing rods, students will “fish” for words (sight words, words that start with ‘M’, etc.)

Additional Practice

Magnet Hunt – Students will search the room using their magnet wands to find objects that are attracted to magnets.

Buried Treasure – Students will use their magnet wands to hunt for objects buried in sand that are attracted to magnets.

Draw Pictures – Students will cut out pictures from magazines or newspapers to show objects that are attracted or not attracted to magnets and also to show ways that magnets are used in class and at home.